



Partners: police & Cinema, p.10



Gobble Wobble photos, p.13

City Mourns Sudden Death Of Councilmember Ric Gordon

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Early Sunday morning Councilmember Ric Gordon died suddenly, at home. He was 41 years old.

“The sudden passing of Ric Gordon is a great loss to the Greenbelt community, Prince George’s County and the State of Maryland,” said Mayor Emmett Jordan. “Ric Gordon was very passionate about Greenbelt, politics and his important role as a councilmember. He will be missed tremendously.” County Executive Angela Alsobrooks said, “our community has lost a dedicated public servant.” “Councilmember Gordon was not only a valued member of the Greenbelt City Council but also a cherished member of the Prince George’s County community. We will remember him for his commitment to making Greenbelt a better place for all,” she said in a statement.

Born in 1982 in Prince George’s County, Gordon attended Prince George’s County Public Schools and then Morris College in South Carolina. He

went on to earn a master’s in public administration. He was completing a certificate program at the Academy of Excellence in Local Governance through the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy Academy this fall. He was employed as a government contractor at the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration.

Gordon had wanted a career in politics since he was 10 years old, when he ran for class president. “You can’t grow up in this area and not be in love with politics,” Gordon previously told the News Review. “I love the service and the people’s work. I’ve been living it since I was a kid,” he said in an interview in January (see the January 5 issue of the News Review).

Gordon had just begun his second term on Greenbelt City Council, a role that filled him with excitement. This year and in 2021 he was the first candidate to gather sufficient signatures and

See **GORDON**, page 7



PHOTO COURTESY RIC GORDON

Councilmember Ric Gordon is seated beside Historic Greenbelt’s new welcome sign.

From Dream to Reality: The Greenbelt Community Orchestra

by Joseph Abelardo Conaty

On Sunday, November 19, Greenbelt’s first community orchestra performed an incredible concert that was a culmination of nearly four months of weekly practice and decades of an ambitious dream. The orchestra’s mission statement is to “provide an outlet” for Greenbelt musicians “to share our love of music with the local community.” At the beginning of this year the orchestra didn’t even exist, and as the year ends they are already preparing for their second concert in March of 2024.

Greenbelt Community Orchestra was a dream for Anne Gardner, who spent her late teens and early 20s performing with community orchestras in England before she relocated to Greenbelt. It came as quite a surprise to her that there wasn’t already an amateur orchestra in Greenbelt, given the number of talented musicians in the area. Instead she played fiddle with local folk musicians and stayed busy raising three children. Gardner was inspired, after attending a Baroque performance last February, to create Greenbelt’s first-ever community orchestra. And in a harmonious response, in mere days, over 50 people signed up



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Greenbelter Derek Maseloff conducts the new Greenbelt Community Orchestra on November 19 in the Community Center gym.

to play. The successful turnout didn’t end there. Gardner watched as a community that shared her passion and appreciation for music crowded the Community Center gym the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Some audience members had to stand because all the seats were full.

After an amazing initial turnout, that concert was just the beginning. Greenbelt Community Orchestra’s next concert is set to be held on March 17, 2024. Gardner envisions the orchestra performing three concerts each year.

See **ORCHESTRA**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, December 4
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Public Safety Advisory Committee, Municipal Building
Wednesday, December 6
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Council Standing Rules, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.

Juvenile Justice Discussions With District 22 Representatives

by Deb Daniel

On November 18, District 22 representatives to the Maryland General Assembly (House of Delegates Nicole Williams, Anne Healey and Ashanti Martinez and Senator Alonzo Washington) met in the Greenbelt Library to discuss priorities for the next legislative session with interested residents. An article in the Greenbelt News Review on November 23 covered the transportation issues that were a primary focus of the meeting; this article will concentrate on justice issues, another key topic raised.

Juvenile Crime, Carjackings

Resident and former councilmember Judith Davis noted the increasing carjackings and car vandalism in Greenbelt and other communities. Juveniles are charged with these crimes and then released to commit the crime again as a “revolving door” when the police find the same juveniles committing the same crimes.

Williams responded that she and the other state legislators have been contacted by many police departments over this issue. The FBI statistics on crime cite juvenile crime as 11 percent of all crimes committed nationwide. Williams has been requesting from police departments numbers on how often repeat offend-

ers have been arrested and what the process is to provide counsel and services to the offenders. Juveniles under the age of 13 cannot go into the Department of Juvenile Services. Those under the age of 13 and other repeat offenders may have other needs and issues that are best addressed by the Department of Human Services by filing a report (children in need of assistance).

See **JUSTICE**, page 12



PHOTO BY MAURICE CRAWFORD

Councilmembers grieved the loss of Ric Gordon at Monday’s meeting. See story, page 7.

Editorial

Support Our Advertisers

We hear about the dwindling number of U.S. community news outlets – which in 2022 were dying at a rate of two per week, according to a report from Northwestern University – and a variety of efforts to help save these valuable local resources. How will those communities find out what’s happening with their local government and in their school systems, or hear regularly about moments, both significant and mundane, in the lives of their residents? Local papers provide a trusted source that brings together a community in a way that disparate online platforms do not.

In our many decades of providing the news of Greenbelt, we have been fortunate to have been able to attract sufficient advertising revenue to print and distribute the paper and to provide minimal dividends to the dedicated writers, editors and ad staff of our newspaper’s worker cooperative. The newspaper continues to hold its own financially partly because many of its members donate their time and energies rather than taking the dividends to which membership entitles them. But it is the steady support of our advertisers that gives us the income needed for long-term success. Maintaining and growing our advertising base allows us the latitude to continue, expand and diversify our service to the community.

Looking ahead, you, our readers, can help us continue to publish Greenbelt’s community newspaper by supporting the local businesses that support us through their advertising. Tell them that you saw their ad in the News Review and that you appreciate their support for the paper.

Letters to the Editor

Councilmember Ric Gordon submitted the following letter last week after the early Thanksgiving deadline, prior to his sudden death on Sunday.

Thank You from Ric!

I want to thank every Greenbelter who gave me the vote of confidence in a loud fashion to continue to serve our beloved Emerald City, our Greenbelt for another two years doing the people’s work on this historic 45th City Council. My heart is full and I appreciate and am humbled by the love you have shown me in my near decade as a Greenbelt resident for allowing me to live the dream of service that began in me at 10 years old.

Ric Gordon

In Praise of Brandon “Ric” Gordon

Ric was everywhere. If there was a happening in Greenbelt, you could count on Ric to be there. He loved what he called the “Emerald City” or the “City on the Hill”. He was a homer. He wasn’t a Native Son, but he was the next closest thing.

There will be a hole in the soul of Greenbelt for a very long time. He will be especially missed in Franklin Park. He was proud of the diversity of that working class community and refused the label “transient” of the place he called home.

He championed services for Franklin Park so that all Greenbelt felt included and represented.

We’re going to miss you. You were an original.

Rev. Ray Raysor
& Rene’ Sewell-Raysor



See LETTERS, page 6

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Napoleon

A spectacle-filled action epic, the film details the checkered rise and fall of the iconic French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, played by Oscar-winner Joaquin Phoenix. Against a stunning backdrop of large-scale filmmaking orchestrated by legendary director Ridley Scott, it captures Bonaparte’s relentless journey to power through the prism of his addictive, volatile relationship with his one true love, Josephine, showcasing his visionary military and political tactics against some of the most dynamic practical battle sequences ever filmed.

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

This story takes place 64 years before Katniss Everdeen volunteered as tribute and decades before Coriolanus Snow became the tyrannical President of Panem. The film follows a young Coriolanus (Tom Blyth) who is the last hope for his failing lineage, the once-proud Snow family that has fallen from grace in a post-war Capitol. With his livelihood threatened, Snow is reluctantly assigned to mentor Lucy Gray Baird (Rachel Zegler), a tribute from the impoverished District 12. But after Lucy Gray’s charm captivates the audience of Panem, Snow sees an opportunity to shift their fates. With everything he has worked for hanging in the balance, Snow unites with Lucy Gray to turn the odds in their favor. Battling his instincts for both good and evil, Snow sets out on a race against time to survive and reveal if he will ultimately become a songbird or a snake.

The Magnificent Ambersons

Orson Welles’ acclaimed drama follows two generations in a well-to-do Indianapolis family. Isabel Amberson receives a proposal from dashing Eugene (Joseph Cotten), but opts instead to marry boring Wilbur. Time passes, and Wilbur and Isabel’s only son, George (Tim Holt), is loathed as a controlling figure in the town. When Wilbur dies, Eugene again proposes to Isabel, but George threatens the union. As George in turn courts the woman he wants to marry, a string of tragedies befalls the family.

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

**Greenbelt CINEMA**

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
DECEMBER 1st - 7th

Napoleon (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2023) (158 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 1:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Mon. 3:30 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 1:45 PM
Mon. 6:30 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM

The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2023)
(158 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:45 PM
Sat. 4:45 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)
Mon. 6:45 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 4:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 1:45 PM
Sat. 8:15 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 3:15 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM

The Magnificent Ambersons
(NR) (1942) (88 mins)
Free Monday Matinee!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM



**YOU'RE GOING TO THE SMITHSONIAN
AND NO RELATIVES ARE VISITING???**

- News Review, October 10, 2019

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center’s east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

Storytimes

Friday, December 1, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9369892.

Monday, December 4, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9369871.

Wednesday, December 6, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9369886.

Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPs Infants and Toddlers Program for up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9370608.

Ride and Read

Thursday, December 7, 11 a.m. ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on one of the stationary bikes with great free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9395256.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Band Performance Now On View

For those who missed the Greenbelt Concert Band’s Veterans Day performance on November 12, the video is now available on Greenbelt Access Television at greenbeltaccess.org. Scroll down and click on the YouTube link to find the performance.

Pollinator Plants Workshop Dec. 16

Come to a free workshop to learn how to make an easy mini-greenhouse out of an upcycled plastic milk or water jug and get a free kit to take home: a fully prepped jug sown with seeds of a native pollinator plant, to be left outdoors all winter. It will produce several hardy seedlings by spring.

The workshop is sponsored by the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). Habitats for plants are being lost to development, along with the birds, bees and butterflies that spread pollen from flower to flower as they feed, enabling plants to reproduce. These processes are crucial, as plants are the basis of our food/energy web, and every life form above them directly or indirectly depends on them.

The one-hour workshop, which will accommodate 20 participants, will take place on Saturday, December 16, at 1:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 103. Register ahead of time by emailing susanmarycahill@gmail.com, to reserve a spot and to help the workshop planner determine how many jugs to prepare.



Volunteers Needed

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is seeking volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours (currently only Saturdays 10 a.m. to noon). Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is down the outside stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

Community Church Christmas Festivities

Greenbelt Community Church will host an outdoor Christmas Festival on Sunday, December 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. Activities will include photos with Santa, Christmas crafts, games, cookie decorating, storybook readings, caroling and an audience-participation Nativity play. The festivities will be outdoors if the weather is good, or indoors if necessary. The church will also be collecting donations of new mittens, gloves, hats and scarves during the festival for their Mitten Tree Project, to be distributed to area schools for children in need.

On Saturday, December 16 at 7 p.m. a Christmas concert will feature classical and contemporary Christmas standards, as well as the premiere of a short play by Greenbelter Amy Hansen. The evening will also include rock ’n roll Christmas songs. Dancing in the pews is encouraged. Baked goods and hot beverages will be sold during intermission, with proceeds going to various charities supported by the church, located at 1 Hillside Road.



Astronomical Society Meets Thursday, Nov. 30

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 30 in Room 103 of the Community Center. Kristen Weaver of NASA/Goddard will speak on the GLOBE citizen science project to gather data during the upcoming solar eclipse and how one can become a volunteer observer. The meeting is free and open to the public.

This is a hybrid in-person/Zoom meeting. A Zoom link will be posted before the event at greenbeltastro.org/events.



Winter Wonderland, Saturday, December 9

Venture Crew 746 will host a magical walk through the forest in Greenbelt on Saturday, December 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. The woods behind Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will be transformed with twinkling lights, decorations and holiday performances. The church is located at 40 Ridge Road. This is the third year that Venture Crew has invited the community to this fundraising event supporting the organization’s activities.

Black History & Culture Committee Meets Dec. 5

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture committee is meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 5 at 7 p.m. to discuss plans for upcoming cultural events. Interested residents can request Zoom information by contacting the committee at blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

Shop With a Cop Requests Donations

Share a little holiday cheer. The Greenbelt Police Department is currently requesting monetary donations from local businesses and residents. These donations are tax-deductible and will be used exclusively to provide gifts to children and their families residing in the City of Greenbelt.

Donations can be made by cash or check at the police station. If by check, make it payable to the City of Greenbelt. For additional information, contact MPO Rahman at rrahman@greenbeltmd.gov.

Poetry In the Garden Schrom Hills Dec. 3

All are invited to a poetry reading on Sunday, December 3 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse of Schrom Hills Park. Bring a favorite poem to read and discuss.

Winter Activity Guide Now Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation has a packed schedule this winter. Starting in December, they offer a variety of options, including music, art and dance classes for pre-school, a host of performing arts classes for elementary and middle school, a wide array of visual arts, ceramics, dance, music, and health and fitness classes for teens and adults, and myriad trips, health and fitness and special interest options for active aging.

Of course, the lead story is the Winter Lights Festival, including the community tree lighting with Santa and Deco the Halls Open House at the Greenbelt Museum on Friday evening, December 1; the juried art and craft fair, Sparkle Mart, on Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3; Santa calling; and The New Deal Nut, A Greenbelt Nutcracker, on Saturday and Sunday, December 9 and 10.

Join Greenbelt Arts for the monthly Artful Afternoons, free all-age art workshops at the Community Center. Attend live performances (or be a part of the performance) this December with The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt Nutcracker and, in March, the Greenbelt Youth Musical, Buried Treasure: An Underground Musical Adventure.

Registration for classes and events opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, November 27 for residents and opens on Monday, December 4, for nonresidents.

Visit greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide to view the Winter Activity Guide.



Free Covid Tests Are Available Again

Once again, four at-home Covid tests per household are available for free from the federal government. Sign up to receive the tests at covid.gov/tests.

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.



Greenbelt Access Television
Dec. 2, Sat - Dec. 8, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

The Miracle on 34th Street (1955)

Amidst all the chaos of shopping and price-comparing, this lesser-known adaptation of a beloved Christmas story posits that there is more to the holidays than making profits! Starring Macdonald Carey, Teresa Wright and Thomas Mitchell as Kris Kringle.

New This Month

Thanksgiving at Beltway Plaza Mall


Apple, pumpkin, or sweet potato pie? Find out which one prevails!

Join our host, Doll, as she covers the turkey giveaway, chats with many mall shoppers about what they are thankful for, and learns about the many unique dishes people bring to their Thanksgiving tables.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions



This Week at the New Deal Café



SUPPORT Greenbelt’s only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
Hours: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 11/30	FRI 12/01	SAT 12/02	SUN 12/03	
The Bachelor and the Bad Actress 7-9pm Two folk musicians at an absurdist honky tonk	Tossing and Turning 8-11pm With special guest Dar Stellabotta	HOLIDAY DRUM CIRCLE 3:30-5pm Just Stones 8-11pm Musical tribute band to the Rolling Stones	THIS COULD GO BOOM! 5:30-8pm An incredible monthly new artist showcase	
MON 12/04	TUES 12/05	WED 12/06	TH 12/07	SPECIALS!
Monday Mauveness Karaoke 6-9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	S.A.W. Open Mic 6-9:30pm HOSTED BY LYNN HOLLYFIELD	The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm A monthly “listening room”	Wolf’s Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm A big boogie blues jam!	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join or renew your membership. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

*** For more information on these and other events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.**

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Helen "June" Webb



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Helen "June" Webb

Helen "June" Webb, 81, of Ridge Road, died on November 11, 2023, following a long decline. The second child and oldest daughter of Helen and John McArthur, she was born December 1, 1941, and raised in Arlington, Va. She was a member of Arlington's Wakefield High School's class of 1959, then studied education at the University of Maryland, College Park, graduating with high honors in 1966. She later earned a second degree, in technical writing, from the University of Maryland University College. At Maryland she met her husband of 58 years, Dr. Ralph E. Webb.

A member of Mowatt Memorial UMC for over 50 years, Helen was a devoted gardener of both flowers and vegetables, supported progressive causes, especially concerning natural space preservation and devoured both the Washington Post and the News Review (for which she volunteered in the 1980s).

She was predeceased by half-siblings John Thomas "Tommy" McArthur (killed during World War II), Sarah "Sally" Lyda (editor, as Sally Meredith, of the Greenbelt Cooperator in the late 1940s), Mary Ann Bennett and nephew Franklin McArthur.

Helen is survived by her husband, her daughter, Dr. Helen F. Webb (Thomas "Chris" Murphy); her son, UA Local 602 Instructor Matthew T. Webb (Jo); brothers James (Evelyn) and Robert (Edith) McArthur; sister Caroline (Cecil) Lee; nieces Shelley McArthur and Jennifer Garlich; nephew Daniel McArthur; and grandchildren Erin Murphy, Genevieve Murphy, Sophia Webb and Garrett Webb. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 11 a.m. at the New Deal Café. A visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., and a meal will follow.



Gabriella Chesnes



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Gabriella Chesnes

Gabriella Chesnes, daughter of Jane and Michael Chesnes of Laurel Hill Road, was born on November 10, 2023, and lived for one week and five hours, dying from a bacterial infection on November 17, 2023.

See **OBITUARIES**, page 6



Our sympathy to the family and friends of Ric Gordon, as well as to the members of the community who relied on him to speak up for them and join in their events.

Condolences to the family and friends of June Webb, a member of the community and past member of the Greenbelt News Review staff, who died November 11.

Our hearts go out to the family of Gabriella Chesnes, who graced this earth for just one week.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to News Review Editor Mary Lou Williamson who underwent hip replacement surgery on November 28.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



"The Great Peace towards which people of good will throughout the centuries have inclined their hearts, of which seers and poets for countless generations have expressed their vision, and for which from age to age the sacred scriptures of mankind have constantly held the promise, is now at long last within the reach of the nations." – Universal House of Justice



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



December 3, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Waiting for Now

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Liturgist Andy McIntire

As the holiday celebrations ramp up, we approach the longest night and enter into the Christian season of Advent. What might the practice of waiting in the darkness have to offer?

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Service for the Weary

Tuesday, December 19 @ 7:00-8:00 pm

Open to all in our community who struggle to find joy in the season.
Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue and allow yourself a quiet space for reflection and healing.

YOU ARE INVITED!

RESTORATION CHURCH

CAROLS & WORSHIP 2023

WONDERFUL

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10 2023 | 5:00PM

119 CENTERWAY GREENBELT MD 20770



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 4 - 8

Monday, December 4 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 5 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Review of Updated General Orders*

Wednesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - COUNCIL STANDING RULES**

Wednesday, December 6 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of October 4 Minutes, Presentation: Greenbelt East Trail, Staff Updates*

Thursday, December 7 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Co-chair Confirmation, Stream Naming Follow-up, Trail Reroute from Northway Entrances Update, Northway Road Drainage, Observatory Vegetation Management, Trail Issue Reporting & Volunteer Arrangements, FBAB Priorities for the Future, Science Fund, Board Chair Focus Group (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), Gardenway Gardens Area, Outreach Poster*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

SPARKLE MART: GREENBELT'S JURIED ART & CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, December 2, 10-5 pm & Sunday, December 3, 10-4 pm.
Greenbelt Community Center

Find gifts for all occasions including pottery, wood crafts and textiles from almost 80 local artisans. Free admission. Live music.

Details and schedule: <https://bit.ly/477AG0Q>.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY FOOD BOX REGISTRATION

Please save the date - **December 1** - registrations open for the Holiday Food Box! Register by contacting Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

The Emergency Diaper Distribution supports Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month.

To register: <https://forms.gle/28TFe4T1y83B9E8u8> or (240) 424-0302.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS Applications Rolling Through December 29, 2023

To better assist Greenbelt individuals, families, and businesses affected by COVID-19, Greenbelt's ARPA programs have extended deadlines through the end of the year for grants and other assistance.

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESPROGRAMS.



Councilman Ric Gordon

September 19, 1982 - November 26, 2023

You were the City's treasured "Emerald"
and will be missed by all.

Thank you for doing the people's work 24/7.
May you rest in peace.



VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

For the City of Greenbelt animal Shelter



You are invited to attend our upcoming Volunteer Orientation.

When: Saturday Dec 2nd from 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Where: City Of Greenbelt Police Department

550 Crescent Rd Greenbelt, MD 20770



Help us improve the lives of homeless animals!



SHOP WITH A COP Please share a little holiday cheer

The Greenbelt Police Department is currently requesting monetary donations from local businesses and residents. These donations are tax-deductible and will be used exclusively to provide gifts to children and their families residing in the City of Greenbelt.



You can make donations by cash or check at the police station. If you choose to pay by check, please make it payable to the "City of Greenbelt." For additional information, contact MPO Rahman via email at rahman@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Community Center: 1-3 pm, Community Center, Ground Floor East.

Contact: bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas). This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE | FALL 2023-2024

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from October 30, 2023 until January 2024. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents NOT to park in front of leaf piles.

DECEMBER 4 - 8

Boxwood

DECEMBER 11 - 15

Woodland Hills

DECEMBER 18 - 22

Lakeside, Greenspring I & II

DECEMBER 26 - 29

Lakewood

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

Benefits:

- RN Assessment
- Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
- Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

For more information on this bill, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOB.



by Christine Rice and Christopher Irwin



- Photos by Chris Irwin

Christine Rice came from Marietta, Ga., to visit with her son and his family for Thanksgiving. After enjoying Fr. Walter Tappe's homily at Holy Mass where, she says, even her 7-year-old grandson said he learned something, she joined the nearly 100 people who were there to feast on the four turkeys, two hams, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, green beans, stuffing, salad, dinner rolls, cranberry sauce and, of course, assorted pies arranged by the parish's Knights of Columbus.

“We were met by such hospitality,” states Rice. “The coordination to put such an event on was amazing as each one who assisted serving us had such generosity of spirit. This called to mind the many things we should look at in our lives and say thank you to God for His many blessings.”

Though no official count was made, longtime Greenbelt resident and Knights of Columbus member David Lockwood observed that the number of non-parish members in attendance was noticeable, and that this year's number rivaled that of last year. He further estimates that this year's celebration marks the 10th year that the Knights of Columbus has hosted the event.

Rice's experience would seem



Father Walter Tappe speaks with visitor Abigail Cronan.

to confirm the observation about the number of non-parish members. "My table fellowship was wonderful," said Rice. "I met Jean who had lived in the area and who was not a parishioner of St. Hugh's but commented on how, of all churches in the area, St. Hugh's has the most community outreach events that she can attend."

Rice also sat with Jerry and his son who were most thankful for the meal and commented on how delicious it was and what they liked best. Fr. Tappe made his rounds from table to table with his gentle kindness, a good shepherd, who brought his flock together in more ways than he

is aware. "God bless him, as I thank God for him," said Rice, "sharing with us the Eucharistic, Thanksgiving feast, and allowing us to experience a bit of the wedding feast downstairs. A touch of Heaven."

About her overall visit to the parish, Rice concludes, "Father has called me an honoree parishioner of St. Hugh's and I see that he makes the whole community feel this way."



GABRIELLA CHESNES continued from page 4

She leaves behind her mother, father and brother Raphael (4), as well as a large extended family, including grandparents John and Joanne Chesnes in Connecticut and Stephen and Theresa Ulrich in Zanesville, Ohio, and her loving Aunt Elizabeth in Ohio, who traveled to provide phenomenal child care and formed an especially close bond.

A celebration for Gabriella

will be held on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. at Greenbelt Community Church as part of worship, with an informal celebration being planned in Connecticut on Presidents Day weekend. Meals as well as donations for a memorial bench and tree are being gathered at mealtrain.com/0erog4. Donations to Children's National Hospital are also appreciated.

Mourning the Loss of Ric Gordon

We join with our neighbors in grieving the loss of Ric Gordon, a source of warmth, kindness and generosity of spirit. Ric was so open in showing how he cared about others and in expressing his gratitude. We found him tremendously inspiring. May we strive to be more like him every day.

Kyla Hanington
Reverend Daniel Hamlin



On Friday, November 24, employees from Greenbelt Honda delivered nonperishable food that employees donated to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry. Ladies of Charity members Linda Kelley and Mary Jo Dorsey gratefully received the donation as they were packing 60 bags of food for the following week for pantry families. Greenbelt Honda also

donated a check for \$1,000 to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry.

The Ladies of Charity are grateful to McCarl Dental Group employees who made and donated two Thanksgiving food baskets and to RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) who donated four Thanksgiving food baskets for food pantry families.



From left, employees from Greenbelt Honda and St. Hugh's Ladies of Charity members Linda Kelley and Mary Jo Dorsey pose with the food pantry donations.

by Kellen Murray

People walking in the forest preserve lately may have noticed orange surveyor's flags off Northway. Not to worry – there is no nefarious development at play. Instead these flags are to mark rerouting of several trails as part of my Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout project. The purpose of the project is to eliminate existing and future erosion issues to improve trail safety and accessibility.

This project is being worked on under the guidance of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board within a plan approved by the city council – so please let the flags be.

A workday
is planned for

Kellen Murray

Saturday, December 16. Anyone who is interested to volunteer or wants to know how to get involved in Boy Scout Troop 214 or Venture Crew 746 can email Kellen Murray at murraykman@gmail.com.



Kellen Murray marks a trail for his Eagle Scout project.



Crew 746

3rd Annual Winter Wonderland

December 9th 5-8pm

- * Santa and his Antique Fire Truck
- * Lighted Woodland Walk
- * Cookies and Hot Cocoa
- * Musical Performances
- * Winter Displays
- * Storytellers, and more!




For more information or to make a donation scan the QR code or visit www.venturecrew746.org

Greenbelt City Council Grieves Loss of Ric Gordon at Meeting

by Maurice Crawford and Michael Zeliff

The November 27 Greenbelt City Council meeting was filled with grief as members mourned the sudden passing of Councilmember Ric Gordon, who died the previous day. The meeting, which began with Mayor Emmett Jordan calling for a moment of silent reflection to honor the memory of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter then moved on to the sharing of a more local loss, appreciating and thanking Gordon for “doing the people’s work.” Members agreed to suspend rules and devote an abbreviated meeting to memories of their colleague. The remembrance began with a heartfelt video created by city staffers in tribute to his service to the city, sharing images of Gordon attending myriad events and functions.

Gordon was recognized for his passion and love for Greenbelt. Jordan saluted his tremendous impact on the city, recalling his determination to push the envelope and find ways of working with others. Councilmember Kristen Weaver said that his presence would be missed and suggested fellow councilmembers think about the things he did well and emulate him. Councilmember Silke Pope observed that we never know what the next day will bring and it is important to treat each other as if tomorrow will never come.

Other members reflected on Gordon’s ability to make others feel welcome, to make connections in the community and his willingness to help others. More than one councilmember recalled Gordon’s phone calls encouraging them to lend their support to efforts such as Cookies on the Bridge. Danielle McKinney, recently elected to council, shared how Gordon quickly made her feel part of the council “family,” and the other new member, Jenni Pompei, described Gordon as a “big cheerleader for each other.”

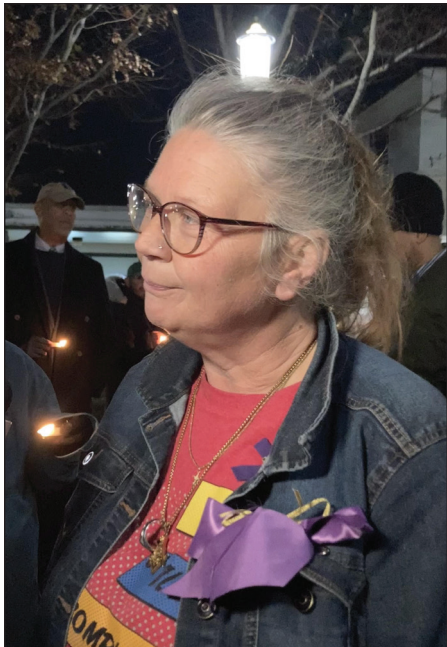
Former councilmember Judith Davis remembered just how happy Gordon was to serve on



Ric Gordon hosted his third Thanksgiving and Things Giveaway on Veterans Day, November 11. The event was also sponsored by Franklin Park Management, Ecolab Ecoessence, Reassurance Counseling Center, RUAK and Impact Fellowship and supported by Greenbelt Police Officers Abbey Kipke and Erick Alvarez. Pictured, from left, are James Cooper of Ecolab, Jocelyn Gutierrez of Franklin Park Management, Councilmember Ric Gordon and Pastor Claude Jennings of Impact Fellowship.



Ric Gordon pictured at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department on election night



Carla Johns-Gordon at the vigil for her husband Councilmember Ric Gordon at the Roosevelt Center on Monday. Behind her, Mayor Emmett Jordan holds a candle.

council. Jordan summarized these sentiments, noting how “incredibly difficult” the loss of Gordon will be to the city, county and state.

Community members in attendance attested to Gordon’s unceasing enthusiasm for his work as an elected official. He wanted to be everywhere that called for city representation, said one speaker. He was described as a shooting star, a comet, a connector among people. One participant felt that an important legacy of Gordon’s was the recent passing of the referendum granting the vote in city elections to residents of Greenbelt who are not citizens.

Councilmembers expressed condolences to Gordon’s wife, Carla, their children and other members of his family. They then moved to adjourn, agreeing that the long list of items in need of deliberation would wait until December 11.



GORDON continued from page 1

file his intention to run. He was well loved and well known in the city, ever present at events and full of enthusiasm. His presence and activism in the community was how he met his wife, Carla Johns, whom he married in February.

Gordon organized Greenbelt’s first Pride Festival in 2022, adding a Pride Parade this year. He participated in numerous walks to school, voter registration and community rallies, food and school supplies giveaways, and other community events. On November 11 he hosted his third Thanksgiving and Things Giveaway, helping to provide food bags and more than 500 other items, such as clothes, books and household goods to Greenbelt families for the Thanksgiving season. He was an advocate of what he called “The People’s Work.”

Though Gordon had suffered from heart problems in the past and had emergency surgery in February, he had been full of his

characteristic energy and enthusiasm and continued to participate in Greenbelt events over recent days, including the city’s annual Gobble Wobble on Thanksgiving Day. Shocked and devastated community members gathered at Roosevelt Center Monday evening to share stories, songs and tears.

Later on Monday evening, the council convened for their regularly scheduled meeting but no business was conducted as they remembered their colleague (see the article on this page).

Ric Gordon leaves behind his wife, Carla Johns-Gordon, four adult children and six grandchildren, as well as numerous supporters and friends in the City of Greenbelt and beyond. Visitations have been scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road in Beltsville. The public is welcome to attend.



Ric Gordon, right, poses for photos before the Gobble Wobble on Thanksgiving morning, 2023.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on December 7, 2023

- GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors**
- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on October 5, 2023
 - b) Legal Matters

- GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. - open to members and visitors**
- a) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on December 7, 2023
 - b) Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on October 5, 2023
 - c) 2024 Corporate Insurance Renewal
 - d) Discuss Greenbelt Pilot Composting Program
 - e) Review Proposed 2024 Board Meeting Schedule
 - f) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on December 21, 2023

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAtcu6srTwvH9NVcuUO7UapG_xV449g-NGx

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



The book cover for "Crime & Parchment" by Daphne Silver. It features a blue background with a white book and a red ribbon.

A photo of Lauren Silbermann, the author of the book "Crime & Parchment".

**New Cozy Mystery
by Greenbelt Author!**

Crime and Parchment
by Lauren Silbermann, writing as Daphne Silver

Rare books librarian Juniper Blume finds books
& bodies where they don't belong...

Available in print, e-book, & audiobook
from the QR code or at
www.daphnesilver.com

A QR code that links to the book "Crime & Parchment" by Daphne Silver.

City’s Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance Starts January 1

In May, the Greenbelt City Council adopted the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance, following similar actions taken in other Maryland jurisdictions. The Prince George’s County Council voted in favor of a countywide Better Bag Bill. Both bills ban single-use plastic bags and aim to reduce litter in local waterways.

What Does This Mean?

Beginning January 1, 2024, Greenbelt retail establishments will no longer be allowed to provide plastic carryout bags to shoppers. If a customer requests a paper bag at the point of sale, the customer must pay at least 10

cents for each bag, with certain exceptions.

The Greenbelt Green Team plans a series of articles to help Greenbelt residents, businesses and shoppers understand the benefits of using reusable bags or taking no bag, how and when these bills affect them, as well as other related topics to clear up any confusion.

Follow stories in the coming weeks and months to learn more. Visit the city webpage for more details at greenbeltnmd.gov/BYOBag or email Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator, at lrobles@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Cookies on the Bridge Seeks Volunteers

It’s time for some sweetness for the students. This is a call for volunteers who are looking for something fun and worthwhile to do: consider Cookies on the Bridge. On weekdays from 3:15 to 4 p.m., volunteers meet at the Spellman Overpass to offer cookies (and carrots) to students coming home from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The goal is to ensure the safety of the students as they make their way home.

Those interested or who have questions should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness), at spreadruak@gmail.com or 301-345-8755 and leave a message.

2nd Annual Krampus Festival Brings Holiday Cheer Dec. 9

by Mark Cheater

Horned goblins will invade Roosevelt Center on Saturday, December 9 at 6 p.m., but don’t worry. It’s the second annual Greenbelt Krampus Festival, when dark humor, fun music and holiday cheer await kids of all ages at a family-friendly event.

The Krampus tradition dates back hundreds of years to the Alpine towns of Europe, where people would dress up as goat-like creatures during the Advent season to scare naughty children. The Krampus would often carry wooden switches or chains to “menace” kids who had been bad, frequently accompanied by Saint Nicholas, who would hand out treats to the good children. In recent years, this tradition has been playfully revived, first in Europe and lately in the United States, with Krampus festivals and parades typically held around the first week of December.

Greenbelt held its first Krampus Festival last year, with a large and happy crowd enjoying music, treats and cider. The award-winning Greenbelt Honk! Situation (a community street band) provided the musical soundtrack, with a selection of



PHOTO COURTESY DAN GILLOTTE

Dan Gillotte at the 2022 Krampus Festival

fun “scarols” (mashups or playful parodies of holiday standards).

The event was such a success that organizers are hoping to make it an annual tradition, and the Honk! Situation is bringing back both old and new scarols this year, along with cider and treats. This year’s event will also feature a Toys for Tots box for folks to donate new, unwrapped toys for distribution to disadvantaged youngsters.

Everyone is welcome, and the event is free – so bring the whole family and dress up as a goblin, or as St. Nick or a sugarplum fairy, or whatever costume suits. Whether naughty or nice, everyone is sure to have fun.

Mark Cheater is a Greenbelt Honk! Situation musician.

ORCHESTRA continued from page 1

Challenges

The orchestra must address a few challenges as it grows. The first is sustaining a free orchestra, which can become expensive as the sections expand. This challenge was met through donations to the orchestra from an impressed audience who were happy to contribute after the performance. Gardner plans to use some of the donation money to cover the expenses necessary to become a nonprofit organization.

Another challenge for an amateur orchestra is to have the right number of each type of instrument. Ideally, orchestras should have a sectional balance where no one section overpowers the other. Gardner said that the orchestra could use more strings, especially double basses, more trombones and a second oboe. Moving forward, they also need a larger room for orchestra rehearsals.

The newly created orchestra demonstrated their talent and musicality during their debut concert and the Greenbelt community looks forward to listening to many more excellent performances. For more information about the orchestra, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.

Joseph Abelardo Conaty is a first-year student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Greenbelt Community Orchestra performs to a standing-room-only audience on November 19 at the Community Center.



PHOTO BY EDITH BEAUCHAMP

Sunset over Greenbelt Lake on October 24



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

Fall beauty at Schrom Hills Park



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Last year’s recycled pumpkins and gourds have volunteered from the compost pile to the garden.

Credit Union Holiday Auto Sale



Save on your next purchase
Rate as low as 5.75% apr*

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union
112 Centerway, Roosevelt Center
301-474-5900 www.greenbeltfcu.com

*apr=annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit. No payment required the first 60 days. Interest will accrue.

Venture Crew Brings Third Winter Wonderland, December 9

by Sam Stewart-Ricketts



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MURRAY

Family-friendly holiday activities at the 2022 Winter Wonderland include face painting.

Venture Crew 746 will host a magical walk through the forest in Greenbelt on Saturday, December 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. The woods behind Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will be transformed with twinkling lights, decorations and holiday performances. The church is located at 40 Ridge Road in Greenbelt. This is the third year that the Venture Crew has invited the community to this fundraising event supporting the organization’s activities.

“Crew 746’s Winter Wonderland is a growing family tradition in Greenbelt you don’t want to miss,” said Venture Crew advisor Liz Murray. “We hope the entire community will join us for hot cocoa, fire pits and fun holiday-themed activities the whole family will enjoy. In addition, Santa will make an appearance with his antique fire truck.”

Venture Crew is a program for local teens emphasizing leadership and outdoor skills. Crew members plan, design and transform the forest into a festive outdoor display.

“We design the holiday experience, mulch the paths and use lashing skills to build an archway that supports lights and snowflakes,” crew member Sebastian Zeller said. “We use our outdoor skills to create a holiday event for everyone to enjoy.”

There is no entry fee to Winter Wonderland, but donations of any amount are welcome. A suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$15 per family of four is encouraged.

“The money we raise at Winter Wonderland

supports our outdoor programs,” Murray said. “We want to make sure that crew is open to all Greenbelt teens, even if they don’t have their own camping equipment.”

Venturing is a youth-led program all about building adventures with friends. Members choose and plan activities that matter to them and develop essential skills like leadership, event-planning, organization, communication, and responsibility while having a blast! The program is coed and open to youth aged 14 to 20 (or 13 and finished 8th grade). For additional information visit venturecrew746.org.

Sam Stewart-Ricketts is a Venture Crew member and managing editor of Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s Raider Review.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN MURRAY

Handmade candy canes crafted by members of Crew 746 adorn the entrance to the 2022 Winter Wonderland.

Most Greenbelt Artisans Ever Featured at 2023 Sparkle Mart

by Rebecca Squire and Nicole DeWald

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program’s Sparkle Mart – a juried art and craft fair – will feature a record number of participating artisans this year who are Greenbelt residents and/or Greenbelt Recreation arts instructors. Guests can shop ultra-local with at least 26 makers who have a deep connection with the Greenbelt community. Sparkle Mart takes place on Saturday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. All three floors of the show are ADA accessible.

The Community Center is a vibrant regional hub for the ceramic arts, offering classes year-round for all ages and experience levels in a wide range of techniques. Sparkle Mart offers an opportunity for shoppers to take home wares created by talented program affiliates that will beautify their tables and enhance daily life. Vendors will include popular instructors Karen Arrington, Gina Denn, Mary Gawlik and Judy Goldberg-Strassler. Additional Community Center artisans include Greenbelters Jonathan Gordy and Karen Morgenstern (showing with Arrington and others at the Friday Night Potters booth in the gym) and Lisa Billingsley and Lola Skolnik (showing with Goldberg-Strassler and others in the Greenbelt Pottery Group booth in the Ground Floor East).

Three Greenbelt fiber artisans are participating in this year’s show. Lindsay McAndrew creates whimsical crochet, including wearable accessories and children’s plush toys. Mary Celestine Ranney-Howes, artist in residence emerita, creates stuffed animals from vibrant fabrics. Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructor Lauren Rankel creates handmade textiles for children including baby clothes and blankets.

Several Greenbelt artisans are offering unique accessories that will bring a creative accent to one’s look. Sherill Anne Gross, artist in residence emerita, creates colorful statement jewelry in polymer clay. Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructors Amanda Swift (mixed media) and Christina Van Pelt (fused glass) also craft wearable art. Greenbelter Lucy Foronda Dirksen creates one-of-a-kind, nature-inspired jewelry in sterling silver and semi-precious stones.

Additional participating artisans will include Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructors Amanda Demos Larsen (handmade books), Damien Ossi (carved wooden utensils) and Amanda Spaid (illustration/paintings). Greenbelt author Amber Hennessey will offer her book, *The Best Dog I Never Owned*, and Robert Tyler



PHOTO BY AMANDA SPAID

Painted Birds by Greenbelt Recreation Arts instructor Amanda Spaid



PHOTO BY LUCY FORONDA DIRKSEN

Sterling Silver Ginkgo Bracelet made by Lucy Foronda Dirksen

will offer his newest crime novel, *Circus Absurdus*. Greenbelter Pragati Godbole will offer cheerful and detailed painted glassware. Mary Ann Lipovsky will offer her watercolor paintings, including some with local motifs. In total, nearly 80 artisans are participating in Sparkle Mart.

Guests can enter a free drawing in the gym on Saturday to win \$50 in Art Bucks that can be spent at the show on Sunday or applied to the cost of a winter 2024 Greenbelt Recreation Arts class. Additional attractions will include: live music from 1 to 3 p.m. on both days; the Good to Da Bone food truck, operating from 11 a.m. to closing on both days; and both Greenbelt Museum and Greenbelt Cinema booths.

On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to noon, a concurrent Youth Craft Sale will take place at the Youth Center during Santa’s Visit. Participating vendors will include Greenbelters Maggie Brown, Dora McKenzie, Kellen Murray and Lucy Murray, offering ceramics, jewelry, photography and additional creations.

All booth spaces for Sparkle Mart are booked. Vendors interested in applying in 2024 are invited to provide their email address to Anne Gardner at agardner@greenbeltmd.gov. City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For more program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Greenbelt Listings



19C Hillside
New Price! \$220,000
An extra full bath on the entry level, and a well-designed kitchen upgrade makes this Greenbelt co-op community charmer an exceptional value. 2 br/2 ba.



UNDER CONTRACT
7J Southway
\$190,000
Recent paint, lovely original hardwood floors, mini-splits, a fenced backyard and a shed all come together to make this a turnkey choice. 2 br/1 ba.



UNDER CONTRACT
19E Hillside
\$259,000
Rarely available, beautifully renovated 3 bedroom 1.5 bath end unit with two decks and a shed, backing directly into the woods overlooking Greenbelt’s Firefly Sanctuary. 3 br/1.5 ba.

Kim Kash **BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2023**
Realtor®
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Lemieux Briefs GCDC Meeting On Plans for Goddard Bike Path

by Melissa Sites

Jeff Lemieux appeared at the Greenbelt Community Development Corporation (GCDC) annual meeting to present plans for establishing a bike path along Greenbelt Road from Hanover Parkway east, past Goddard Space Flight Center and beyond.

Lemieux represents Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail (FOGET), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to improving conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians around Greenbelt. A major goal of the organization is to connect the WB&A Trail (Washington, Baltimore, Annapolis) with the Anacostia River Trail System, which would connect biking trails in the greater Washington, D.C., area to the Maryland trail system.

In order not to lose a lane of vehicle traffic, the proposed bike path would run along sidewalks, shoulders and the other side of guardrails, from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, past Goddard, past DuVal High School and on toward Glenn Dale Splash Park, which is where the WB&A Trail crosses Md. 193 (Greenbelt Road). A grant from Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA) enabled Lemieux to present visual renderings of what the path would look like. A map is available at proteusbicycles.com/articles/greenbelt-east-trail-pg257.htm. Lemieux considers himself retired, while his wife Laurie Lemieux still runs Proteus Bicycles in College Park.

The plan proposes a protected side trail for both walking and biking along the highway; bus stops that are safer for pedestrians; wider, safer sidewalks; and safer, squared-off corners replacing high-speed right-turn lanes such as the one at ICESat Road, the proposed new entrance to Goddard.

The Greenbelt East Trail has won support from a number of community partners, including the City of Greenbelt, GCDC, ATHA, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, the East Coast Greenway (a walking and biking route running 3,000 miles from Maine to Florida) and the Glenn Dale Citizens Association. In April, the National Park Service awarded FOGET a Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance grant providing expertise and techni-

cal assistance. The Greenbelt East Trail also has support from Prince George's County Councilmembers Ingrid Watson (District 4) and Eric Olson (District 3 and Transportation Committee chair), who requested an expedited feasibility study from the State Highway Administration (SHA).

Lemieux will continue to seek grant opportunities to support the development of new biking trails. Federal funding is available from such grant programs as Reconnecting Communities, Safe Routes to School, Transportation Alternatives, and Safe Streets and Roads for All.

For biking westward, instead of running along Greenbelt Road, an effective path leads across the Spellman Overpass, through Old Greenbelt, down Crescent Road and across Kenilworth Avenue to Ivy Lane, along Cherrywood Lane, and crossing under Greenbelt Road to connect to the Anacostia system of trails. Because it belongs to the City of Greenbelt, Lemieux considers Cherrywood Lane to be optimal for bicycle trail development, pointing out the difficulties of coordinating a number of different authorities when developing bike trails – not only the city, but Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation, SHA and even Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Fred Gaspar, a longtime biking advocate, urged continued cooperation with homeowner's associations, especially those in Glenn Dale and the unincorporated areas along Greenbelt Road that are not included in Greenbelt or in other cities.

When asked how Greenbelters could continue to support the trail, Lemieux urged that everyone spread the word. "What we need in the short run is for people to go out and talk about this to others. Outreach is really my key objective until we see the feasibility study. Then we will need help with grants, engineering and construction," Lemieux said.

For more information about the new trail, visit Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail at greenbeltnasatrail.org.



On the morning of November 3, the warm waters of Greenbelt Lake and the cold air temperature created this fog effect.

PHOTO BY JOHN CAMPANILE

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Police Partner with Cinema

On Monday, November 20, police, fire and EMTs participated in a special Storytime on the Screen at Greenbelt Cinema. Attendees enjoyed listening to a book, a song and a short film before visiting with the officers and exploring the vehicles they had parked in Roosevelt Center.



- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Police



Officer Alvarez greets young visitors in the Roosevelt Center.



Storytime on Screen participants were treated to a short film that included officers.



Officer Alvarez meets a potential future recruit.



Officers greet storytime participants and invite them to explore their vehicles.

PHOTO BY AMINA KHALIFA

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred November 20 - 26, 2023. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death; four domestic disputes, including one leading to an arrest; and one mental health diversion involving attempted suicide.

Armed Robbery

On November 21 at 4:17 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a boy walking to school was approached by a male and female with a knife who stole some of his clothing.

Assault

On November 24 at 4:51 p.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, two people got into a fist fight after a parking disagreement. A family in their vehicle was blocked in by another car whose driver yelled racial slurs at the family. He then grabbed a bat and struck the family's car, which led to a fight. The man was arrested for assault and also for DUI.

On November 25 at 3:26 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stated that a person, who harasses and asks him for money, spat on him.

DUI

On November 20 at 4:24 a.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, a driver was found unconscious in a vehicle parked on the sidewalk. He was arrested on a warrant from the Prince George's County Sheriff for failure to appear in court for a DUI.

On November 23 at 12:40 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, a driver with bloodshot eyes, several signs of impairment and the strong odor of marijuana was arrested for DUI.

On November 23 at 2:27 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue, a vehicle was driving at night with no lights. The strong odor of alcohol was present and after sobriety tests were administered the driver was arrested and charged with DUI.

On November 23 at 5:55 p.m. after a two-vehicle crash near the Greenbelt Road, Baltimore-Washington Parkway intersection, the driver of the striking vehicle was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On November 21 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, in a case of identity theft, a man received a credit card statement from an account he never opened.

Theft

On November 20 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, after FedEx delivered luggage to a residence, a Ring camera recorded a teenager taking the luggage. On November 20 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a purse was stolen after being left in the store restroom. On November 21 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a former employee would not return the company's cell phone. On November 24 near 6400 Ivy Lane, items were missing from a hotel room after housekeeping cleaned it. On November 24 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a package was missing after notification of delivery.

Commercial Theft

On November 20 at 1:03 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two men stole several items. On November 20 at 2:33 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, employees captured a man shoplifting, and the man was banned from the store. On November 21 at 11:59

a.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, two men stole multiple items; at 7:09 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items; and at 7:35 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole several items. While police were taking the report, the woman was seen shoplifting at another store nearby. Officers stopped her and all items were returned. She was not prosecuted but was banned from returning. On November 22 at 3:20 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two women stole several items. One was detained, and the items were returned. On November 24 at 7:43 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two women and a man stole several items; at 1:29 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man who had stolen before tried to steal some items and was stopped and held for police; and at 5:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was stopped outside the store with stolen merchandise and was arrested.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On November 22 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a white 2006 Ford Van (Md. 4FF3638) was stolen. On November 26 near 120 Westway, a black 2016 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 42782CG) was stolen.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On November 25 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a Kia Soul had a broken window and damaged ignition.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

Out of six stolen vehicles that were recovered, four were Hyundais. On November 22 near 130 Westway, a man tracked his stolen Hyundai Elantra to where it was parked, and it was recovered with ignition damage. On November 23 near 9200 Edmonston Road, a stolen vehicle was

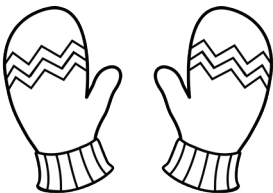
found unoccupied with a damaged window and ignition; near 6000 Springhill Drive, a Hyundai stolen from Berwyn Heights was found with ignition damage; near 160 Westway, a 2016 Chevrolet Corvette Stingray was stolen and later recovered as it was attempting to cross the US-Mexico border. On November 26 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a Hyundai Elantra stolen from Lanham was found with a broken window and ignition damage; and near 9100 Springhill Lane, a Hyundai Accent registered in D.C. was found with a broken window and ignition damage, and was towed for safekeeping.

Theft from Auto

On November 25 near Maplewood Court, a man reported that his vehicle's tags were replicated and that he was receiving toll charges for them.

Vandalism to Auto

On November 22, near Ora Glen Drive and Hanover Parkway, a Honda Civic had a damaged window and the trunk was open; near 7300 Sunrise Court, a 2006 Honda Pilot had a window smashed but nothing taken; and near 6100 Greenbelt Road, the door of a 2019 Honda CRV was scratched after a dispute over a parking spot. On November 24 near 6400 Ivy Lane, the door and handle of 2017 Hyundai Elantra were damaged. On November 25, windows were damaged on a 2017 GMC Acadia near 6000 Springhill Drive and on a 2017 Nissan Murano near 5700 Cherrywood Lane.



Woman Shot, Two Greenbelt Schools Locked Down Monday

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, November 27 at approximately 1:30 p.m., a 21-year-old woman was struck by gunshots in the 6200 block of Springhill Court. Several cars sped away from the area, which is in Franklin Park, making it difficult to ascertain if a suspect had fled in a vehicle. With no suspect at the scene to apprehend, and at least one armed shooter at large, two nearby schools, Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DFKI, K-8) and Greenbelt Middle School were placed on lockdown as a precautionary measure. Two to three officers were placed at each school and Maryland State Police also responded to lend support.

At 2:15 p.m., DKFI notified families that, "Due to police ac-

tivity in the neighborhood, DKFI students and staff are temporarily not allowed to go outside the building." At 3:08 p.m., they notified the school community that campus movement had been restored.

The victim was transported by ambulance a short distance to Greenbelt Middle School where she was airlifted to hospital in critical condition. On Tuesday the victim, though seriously injured, was in stable condition.

Greenbelt Police officers are continuing to gather information about the shooting, including footage from nearby cameras. They request that anyone with information related to this incident contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



PHOTO BY CAROL GRIFFITH

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JUSTICE continued from page 1

Juvenile Interrogation, Diversion

Greenbelt resident Louise Weissman asked what long-term solutions are being considered to address the recent spike in crime. In response, Williams spoke about the Juvenile Justice Reform Act from the Maryland General Assembly (SB 691), in effect for about a year, which requires police to notify the guardian of any juvenile in custody before interrogating them and also to provide the right to counsel. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2022 impacted interrogation of juveniles and restricted the use of detention and confinement, shortened probation periods and encouraged diversions from court.

Some in law enforcement feel that the law requiring them to wait for a parent ties their hands from interrogation and the restrictions on their detention prevent them from keeping juveniles in custody. This is proving problematic, particularly amid a spike in juvenile crimes. Proponents of the change, however, have noted that youth are particularly susceptible to giving false confessions under interrogation. The bill also had a racial equity impact note that included data that juveniles under 13 who identified as Black or African American were almost four times likelier to have a Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) intake case when compared to whites, and the same group was almost 14 times more likely to have a DJS placement in custody or another committed program than whites.

Williams noted juveniles have the same right to counsel as adults, including the right to waive counsel. She said police are still able to investigate, as they have been doing with witnesses. Despite public backlash against the bill, Williams does not foresee its repeal.

Charging Juveniles as Juveniles

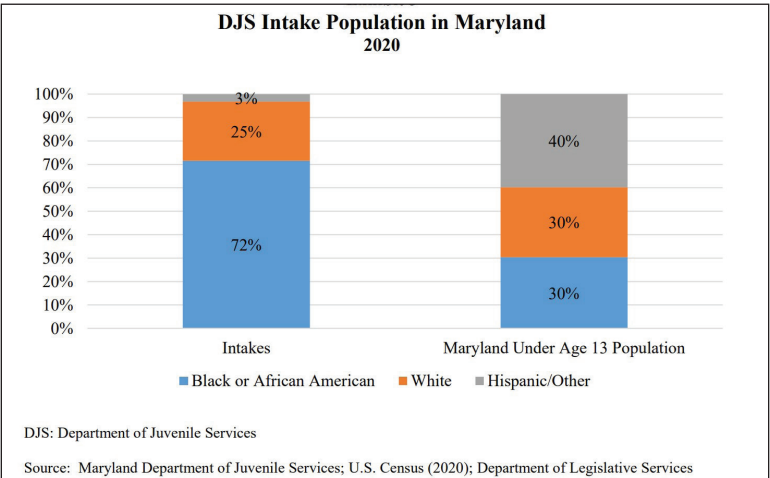
Weissman asked about a bill that was not passed last session related to charging juveniles as adults and placing them in adult jails. As the law stands now, a juvenile under the age of 18 may be charged as an adult and the prosecution would have to file a motion asking the court to charge the juvenile as a juvenile. The bill in question would reverse the process, charging the juvenile as a juvenile and placing the onus on the prosecution to file a motion to charge as an adult. Williams thinks the bill will be reintroduced this session. She noted concerns that DJS has been underfunded and unable to provide effective programs for rehabilitating the juvenile population. The hope is those programs will be funded.

Fines and Fees

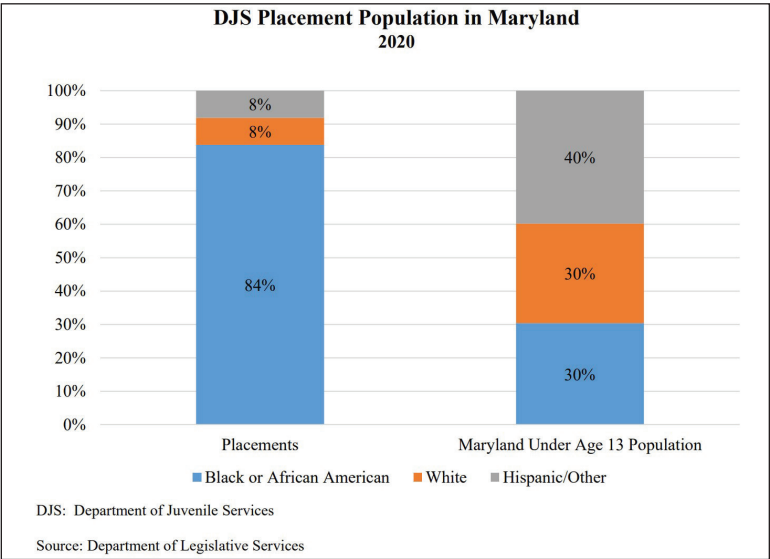
The other juvenile justice issue raised at the meeting concerned fines and fees. Offenders who are on parole or probation have fees that are sometimes costly, for things such as drug testing. Without a job, some fail to pay for frequent testing and thus have unsatisfactorily completed their parole.

Unit Rule

Williams will be introducing legislation around the unit rule. Currently in Maryland, criminal records with charges that did not result in a conviction are eligible for expungement, but only if all charges within a “unit” are eligible. Thus, for example, if a



DJS intake population in Maryland, 2020 - Charts by Department of Juvenile Services



DJS placement populations in Maryland in 2020

person is charged with multiple crimes, some serious and some misdemeanors, even if they were only convicted of the misdemeanors, they would not be able to expunge their record after completing any time and parole because they’d be linked to the more serious charges (not necessarily convictions), which are not expungable. The bill Williams is introducing is not increasing the types of crimes that are expungable but allowing expungable crimes to be removed from a record even if they were within a unit with non-expungable charges.

A member of the audience, who asked not to be named, raised concerns about the impact of Williams’s proposal upon domestic violence cases. Williams stated that all non-expungable charges, like first degree rape, would remain non-expungable.

In addition, the complete record and information about previous charges would still be available to the state prosecutors and law enforcement.

Protecting Judges

Williams, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, spoke about House Bill (HB) 536, a bill designed to protect the privacy of judges and their families by keeping their information private. The murder of Maryland State Judge Andrew Wilkinson outside his home in Hagerstown in October shocked the General Assembly and prompted action to protect judges from violence. The suspect in the murder is a man whose divorce and custody case went before the judge. HB 536 allows certain current and former judges and prosecutors and their immediate family members to request the removal of their personal infor-

mation from the internet or other publications and to prohibit sharing of public records containing their home address or telephone number. Williams is confident that such a bill can be passed in the 2024 session.

Reproductive Justice

Jeff Brown, from the audience, questioned whether HB 705, a state constitutional amendment on reproductive freedom, would allow gender transitioning without parental support, as there were no age limits in the bill. Washington said he thought the constitutional amendment was about abortion as a woman’s right and that he felt this belonged in our state constitution. However, the interpretation of the bill as allowing gender transitioning with no age limit would have to be left to constitutional scholars and he could not comment on that interpretation.

Williams said her understanding is that the bill would be put on the ballot as a referendum for the voters. For Williams, the issue is not just about abortion but reproductive justice. The choices families make may involve when to have children with a healthy pregnancy and how to bring them into a healthy environment. Williams said she thought the issue of gender transitioning was called gender-affirming care and there is legislation that has been introduced with regards to this that is separate from HB 705.

Martinez pointed out that this constitutional amendment is about families, parents and those in-

involved in the care of children having the ability to make choices responsibly for those children. The bill does not meddle in the doctor’s office regarding gender-affirming care.

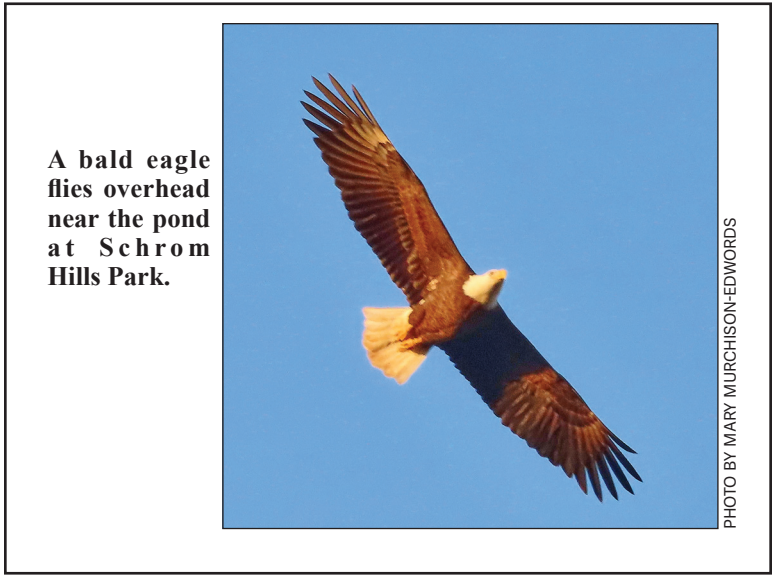
Family Support

Greenbelt resident Erica Hernandez spoke about a bill to collect student parenting status information by Maryland’s institutions of higher education. Nationally, one in five students in higher education is a parent so, in addition to paying tuition and other educational costs, these students are paying for child-care and providing for their children. The bill will collect student parenting information and report it to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for tracking student retention and graduation rates. Then, hopefully, this information will lead to more financial support for working people with children who are pursuing higher education.

Healey responded that she would support such a bill and, in fact, that she introduced a similar bill codifying Title 9 for pregnant and parenting students so that these students have an opportunity to continue their education.

Scholarship Program

Martinez presented the District 22 scholarship program that funds requests from \$200 up (with no upper limit) for college, trade, graduate, professional and post-secondary programs in Maryland. The application is available online by contacting a District 22 Delegate.



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PARKING MAP



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The New Old Garden Club Offers Many Fun Activities

by Lesley Kash



PHOTO BY MELISSA MACKAY

Member-Vendor Alba Tirado sells exclusively native plants, popular at the May 2023 Plant Sale.

The Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club gathered for the first time in its new meeting venue, the Greenbelt Youth Center Community Room, on the evening of September 27. Old and new members shared conversation, potluck snacks and the customary plant swap/raffle. The featured lecture on asters and goldenrod by Uli Lormer, horticulture director of the Native Plant Trust, captivated the audience in the room and an equal number on Zoom.

History

In 1952, the Beltsville Garden Club was founded by 14 Beltsville residents, mostly scientists working at the University of Maryland (UM) and Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The club's historic name honored long relationships with these and other Beltsville institutions and partners, among them Behnke's Nursery and the Duckworth School, the club's home and greenhouse starting in 1994.

Transition

With an ever-increasing number of club members living and gardening in Greenbelt, and the sad loss of Behnke's Nursery and the Duckworth School, the club appreciated a soft landing-place in Greenbelt.

The first step of this transition was a change of venue for the club's annual spring plant sale, where member-raised plants are sold to fund a scholarship to the UM School of Agricultural and Environmental Resources as well as speaking fees and other club activities. Moving this big, long-established, runs-like-clock-work regional event from High Point High School to Greenbelt's Roosevelt Center in 2021 was a logistical and public relations challenge. Then feedback from both vendors and long-faithful shoppers praised Greenbelt's convenience, especially the unaccustomed comforts of restrooms and restaurants. Vendors enjoyed serving a new cohort of neighborly shoppers, many of them novice gardeners who welcomed advice, encouragement and affordable plants. Last year's sale was even more successful, despite

cold rain, and by 2023 the sale had become an established and anticipated annual event.

Many More Activities

In addition to regular monthly meetings, which are free and open to the public, the club organizes garden tours, nursery visits, luncheons and other horticultural experiences to educate and entertain club members. This year's tours included McCrillis Gardens, Glenstone Environmental Center, the William Paca House and Garden in Annapolis and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater. The club's other customary annual social gatherings are the summer Peach Fest and a winter holiday party; both are celebrated nowadays in the Community Room and picnic shelter at Schrom Hills Park.

Parallel Garden Clubs

A distinct organization (though with several members in common), the similarly-named Greenbelt Community Garden Club is an historic club carrying on the Greenbelt pioneer tradition of local "victory" gardening, farming individual garden plots in three locations near Ridge Road. The two clubs have different missions but share a loving dedication to growing plants.

Everyone Is Invited

The Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club meets regularly on the fourth Wednesday of garden-season months. Bringing a snack to share or a plant-related item to swap is optional, and it adds to the fun.



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Gobble Wobble 2023

This year's annual Thanksgiving Gobble Wobble around Greenbelt Lake was a record-breaking year with over 300 registrants. The winners were: Men - Ethan Glenn (18:39), Noah Eubanks (20:19), Ian Gleason (20:28), Women - Taylor Edwards (24:57), Rebekah Pase (26:35), McKinley Javanovic (26:38).



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The top three female race winners of the 2023 Gobble Wobble pose with the turkey mascot.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The top three male winners of the 2023 Gobble Wobble pose with the turkey mascot.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

City Manager Josué Salmerón and his family pose with a gobbler.

Fly Me to the Moon, Jupiter's Moon, Europa

NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft will be exploring Jupiter's ocean world, the icy moon Europa. NASA invites all to help them send a Message in a Bottle: Names will be engraved on a microchip that will travel 1.8 billion miles (2.6 billion kilometers) to Europa. Submit a name by December 31 at <https://europa.nasa.gov/message-in-a-bottle/sign-on>.

Europa Clipper is being assembled at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and is set to launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in October 2024. By 2030, it will be in orbit around Jupiter. It will gather detailed measurements to determine if Europa has conditions suitable for life. Learn more about Clipper and Europa at <https://europa.nasa.gov>.

Friends of the Library Needs Volunteers

Friends of Greenbelt Library (FoGL) is a group of volunteers that support programming at the Greenbelt Library through the sale of used books in the Library's bookstore, Novel Endings.

They are looking for additional volunteers who can commit three to four hours per month to help with any of the following:

Meet a donor at the Library to accept book donations (Library staff cannot accept donations for Novel Endings); help sort books in the Library; shelve books at Novel Endings; tidy the bookshelves at Novel Endings; deliver books to their community partner, The SPACE, at Beltway Plaza; help with refreshments at Library events; or attend monthly FoGL meetings at the Library.

Those who are interested should email Annie Shaw at friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com.

Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members, especially string players. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.

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WRITER WISHES TO hire editor who lives in Historic Greenbelt. Reply to socheprofessor@gmail.com.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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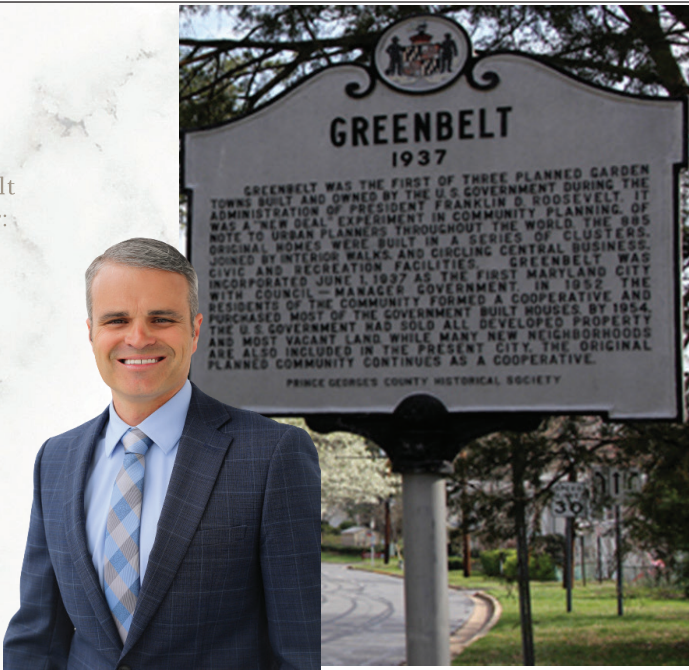


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School News

ERHS Students Weigh In On PGCPS Clear Backpack Policy

by Me'iana Bell, Alexandra Herrera, Daevon Walker, Haylie Martin and Yamileth Navarro

This school year, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) established a new safety policy requiring clear backpacks for high school students and an expansion of the policy to include middle schools is being considered for January. Students attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School have mixed opinions on the policy. Some consider it an invasion of privacy while others consider it a simple inconvenience.

Grace Zannou, a sophomore at Roosevelt, says, "I don't really mind the clear backpacks except for the lack of privacy, which I get is for safety concerns, but I do feel that our privacy is not being respected." Many students are unhappy with the new mandate and are still adjusting to the new rule.

The new backpacks were adopted after the last school year when there were 15 guns and 201 knives seized in county schools. In one violent incident in May, three teenage boys attempted to shoot a 14-year-old student on the bus. Superintendent Millard House II says, "There is no tolerance for weapons inside of our schools or on grounds and our school buses." He hopes the clear backpacks will help keep weapons off school grounds.

Blessing Bate, a senior, gave her opinion on the new clear backpack policy, stating, "I don't like this new enforced rule but it is for the better of schools in PGCPS."

Not all students share these views. Junior Andrew Beckmann says, "Wearing a clear backpack is pointless, you can always hide something in your pockets."

Still, most students do carry a clear backpack, though not all of them. A junior without a clear backpack was asked why he chose to not wear one and he stated, "I don't like the look of it and if there are metal detectors on the way, why even wear one at that point?" Gerardo H. also feels uncomfortable wearing one and adds, "It was also hard trying to find a clear backpack, especially the week before school started; most were out of stock everywhere."

Students are not the only people who are skeptical about the policy. Mentioned in a *Diamond-back* article, Cladudia Barragan, a



Students file into their high school building in September, some with the mandated clear bags.

Prince George's County resident who monitors students in high school, says, "I don't think that having the metal detectors and clear backpacks is going to resolve issues with weapons." She explains that this is not the solution to the problem, while adding, "The money is going to run out.

PGCPS provided the following statement to the Greenbelt News Review:

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) implemented new security efforts this school year to include the phased-in installation of security enhancement equipment at all high schools and a clear backpack mandate for students in grades nine through 12 and in the Non-Traditional Programs.

The district will review security data at the end of the first semester in January to determine how the strategies have impacted school safety. PGCPS will notify the school community if the clear backpack mandate will be expanded to middle schools.

Despite our questions, PGCPS representatives would not provide details of which metrics and data they'll use to assess any impact on school security or how the installation of metal detectors at middle schools this fall might affect that data. They would not comment on whether student feedback or levels of compliance would be included in their analysis and decision to expand to middle schools or not.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

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Thank you...
Councilman Ric!
The People's Work



In Loving Memory of Councilman Brandon "Ric" Gordon

It is with heavy hearts and a deep sense of loss that the Franklin Park Team bids farewell to a remarkable individual, Councilman Brandon "Ric" Gordon, whose unwavering commitment to the Franklin Park community and the City of Greenbelt has left an indelible mark on our hearts.

Ric was not merely a public servant; he was a dedicated advocate for the well-being of his neighbors and the greater Greenbelt community. His passion for giving back was evident in every endeavor he undertook, as he tirelessly worked to enhance the lives of those he represented. Whether spearheading community projects or engaging with residents, Ric's enthusiasm and genuine concern for others shone through.

One of Ric's greatest joys was the opportunity to connect with his Franklin Park neighbors on a personal level. He believed in the strength of community bonds and sought to create an environment where every individual felt heard and valued. His approachability and warm demeanor endeared him to many, fostering a sense of unity that defined the spirit of Franklin Park.

Ric's dedication and exemplary service did not go unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous awards he received for his outstanding contributions to community service. These accolades were not just acknowledgments of his accomplishments but were reflections of the positive impact he had on the lives of countless individuals.

Beyond his public service, Ric was a loving husband to his wife, Carla Johns-Gordon. Their partnership was a source of strength for him, and together they exemplified the values of love, support and shared commitment to the betterment of their community.

In honoring Councilman Brandon "Ric" Gordon, let us remember that the "People's Work" continues as we strive to uphold his legacy of compassion, community, and service, ensuring that his vision for a better, more connected Greenbelt endures for generations to come. He will live on in the hearts of those he touched, and the community he worked so hard to uplift will forever be grateful for his selfless service.

Sincerely,
Franklin Park Team